

The Times-Dispatch.

Published Daily and Weekly

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1903.

Morals and Business.

We do not understand that the Democratic senators in Congress are opposed to the construction of the Panama Canal. It is generally conceded that an inter-ocean canal is a necessity of the times, and that it will be of great benefit to the United States. The southern people are especially interested in the construction of such a canal, and the southern senators are in favor of it. It is a question whether or not the Panama route is the best that could be found, but it is the shortest route between the oceans. The Panama scheme is just now the most possible of all that have been proposed. The rights and franchises of the French company have been obtained, and the new Republic of Panama is ready and anxious to enter into negotiations with us and let the work go on. If this treaty should be ratified by the United States Senate, the work will begin in short order.

But there are moral questions involved which cannot be overlooked. Our special correspondent writing from Panama says that while there is no evidence discoverable there to controvert the statement of President Roosevelt that his administration was not privy to the revolution in Panama is in an indisputable fact that the conspirators believed implicitly before they made a single move for independence that advance assurances of support had been given by the government at Washington, and that this belief was so thoroughly fixed in the minds of the conspirators that they did not hesitate to say that the move would never have been made had Washington not given assurances of support.

The conspiracy was hatched out in the United States, and it is positively asserted that the administration was privy to it. It may not have given the necessary assurances in so many words, but it doubtless gave the conspirators to understand that if they should be successful in setting up an independent republic, the new government would be recognized at once by the United States. As a confirmation of that, the new republic was recognized immediately after its independence had been declared.

Moreover, under the guise of protecting the Panama Railroad and inter-oceanic traffic, the Colombians were prevented by the United States government from landing troops and suppressing the insurrection. And to-day our government is protecting the so-called Republic of Panama from a revolution of Colombian troops.

In short, the United States government is responsible for the revolution, and certainly appears to have done the Colombian Republic a gross wrong. It is for this reason that such Democrats as Senator Daniel and such Republicans as Senator Hoar are calling for all the facts in the case, and insisting that if we have done Colombia a wrong we should make just reparation. As a purely business question it is on the face of it in our interest to make terms with Panama, but if we have done a friendly republic a wrong in putting ourselves in position, we cannot escape the responsibility of our act, and we cannot escape the evil consequences that always follow an act of unrighteousness. As an honorable nation we must always take our stand for that which is honorable. And especially should we be careful when we are dealing with a weak nation, which is unable to enforce its rights by arms.

We repeat that there are two questions involved, a business question and a moral question. But the moral question must be taken up and disposed of first of all. When that shall have been settled in the way becoming an honorable nation, we may then proceed to consider the business question. But our motto should be morals before business.

Mr. Rixey's Bill.

Congressman Rixey thinks the purport and effect of his bill "for the relief of veterans of the Confederacy" has been misunderstood, and that wrong impressions have been manifested into objectionable facts. But having great confidence in the calm judgment of the veterans upon a full knowledge of the facts, he has recently mailed to the Stenwall Jackson Camp, of Staunton, a letter, a copy of which we append. The proposition he makes to that camp he also made to the R. E. Lee Camp, of Richmond. It is to meet before either camp a representative of the camp in joint discussion of the merits and demerits of the proposed bill. Here follows his letter to the Stenwall

camp, and a copy of the bill in question:

December 17, 1903.
Adjutant Stenwall Jackson Camp, C. V., Staunton, Va.
Dear Sir,—The daily papers of this date contain a notice of the action of the Stenwall Jackson Camp, condemning what is known as the Soldiers' Home bill. While the matter seems to be prejudiced, I am willing to meet before your camp, any representation of the camp in joint discussion of the merits and demerits of the proposed bill.

Being fully satisfied of the wisdom and justice of the proposed measure, I am willing to state my reasons therefor.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. RIXEY.

For the relief of the Confederacy. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act, all Soldiers' Homes and other institutions maintained by the government for the disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States shall be open to all soldiers and sailors of the civil war of eighteen hundred and sixty-one on the same terms and without discrimination as to whether they were upon the side of the Union or the Confederacy.

Section 2. That the benefit of the laws providing aid for Soldiers' Homes in the several States is hereby extended to those States which maintain or shall establish Soldiers' Homes for the veterans of the Confederacy.

We are sure there has been no intention in any quarter to do Mr. Rixey injustice. We suggest that R. E. Lee Camp, of this city, adopt his suggestion and invite him to appear before it and discuss the bill with some member who may be appointed for this purpose.

The measure is now pending before the House Committee on Military Affairs, and it has asked the War Department to present its views upon the subject.

Insanity Among Negroes.

Dr. H. A. White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane at Washington, has contributed to the National Geographic Magazine an interesting paper upon the geographical distribution of insanity in the United States. In speaking of the colored insane, Dr. White says:

"In Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia we find the ratio of colored insane 1 to 1,277, while for the whites in the same territory it is 1 to 456. For the remainder of the United States the ratio of colored insane, as is shown by the tenth census, was 1 to 542, while for the whites it was 1 to 529. The ratio of colored insane in the United States, minus the Southern States, is, then, almost exactly the same as the ratio for the white insane."

The cause for this difference in the number of insane among negroes North and South is not far to seek, says the Chicago Tribune. The negro South either leads an idle, happy-go-lucky kind of life or he works in the field or at house service. In either case he is troubled with competition. He knows nothing about labor troubles. His work is not menaced by walking delegates. He is working for a people who take life easily and "do not mostly hurry." The negro North is in a radically different environment. He is in the midst of rush and hustle, competition, worry, fret and headlong chase after the "almighty dollar," and it is but natural that he should be affected by it. Where life is the simplest and worry is least common there is the least insanity.

This theory seems to be all right, but Dr. White's figures are wrong, so far as Virginia is concerned. The number of negro patients received at the State Central Hospital last year was 1,205, and the daily average was 1,006. It is fair to presume, therefore, that the number of insane negroes in Virginia averages something like 1,000. Now the negro population of Virginia is about 600,000, and this makes the proportion of lunatics about 1 in 600.

Mock Marriages.

For nine years, says the New York Tribune, the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hungarian Literary Society has filled its coffers by means of a peasant ball, at which mock marriages and divorces have been the chief attraction, and up to the present time no objection has ever been made to the performance. The seeds of discussion were soon, however, when the success of the peasant ball attracted the attention of a society in Paterson, N. J., and led to an imitation of the Hungarian methods. A local clergyman protested against what he termed a desecration of the marriage rite. The affair got into the newspapers, and some of the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Hungarian Literary Society began to think that their matrimonial mimicry was not just the thing. When it was proposed, therefore, to carry out the usual arrangements for the peasant ball, which is to take place on New Year's Eve at Sulzer's Harlem Casino, they entered a vigorous protest, and the point was hotly contested.

The protest is timely. Marriage is a sacred institution, and it should be considered always in a spirit of reverence. The ceremony should never be ridiculed. One of the greatest evils of the age is the hasty and ill-considered marriage, followed too often by an application for divorce. Instead of mock marriages and mock divorces, which tend to belittle matrimony and bring it into contempt, society should exert itself to impress men and women with the dignity and sanctity of the marriage estate.

Treatment of Orphans.

We print elsewhere a communication from "L. H. B." on the subject of orphan asylums, with much of which we agree. We like the idea of sending the boys and girls of orphan asylums to the public schools that they may associate with other children and learn something of the ways of the world. We also agree with L. H. B. that the orphans should not be clothed in the conventional "uniform," for in this way they are made to wear the badge of dependence and to parade themselves before the public as paupers. There is no more pitiful

sight in Richmond than the oft-seen procession of orphans in uniform. Self-reliance is particularly an American principle, and the unfortunate children who are reared in an orphan asylum should be made to feel their dependence as little as possible. Surely nothing should be done to humiliate them.

But we cannot agree with L. H. B. in his proposal to abolish all orphan asylums and find homes for the orphans in the country. If L. H. B. had had experience in this line he would never have proposed such a thing—unless his experience should have been quite different from ours. Several days ago at a meeting of the Board of Directors of one of the Richmond orphan asylums a letter was read from a man in the country who had adopted one of the boys. He complained that the boy did not suit him, and he insisted upon returning him to the asylum. It was unanimously decided by the board to take the little fellow "home," and one of the members took occasion to remark that in an experience of twenty odd years, he had rarely known a case where such an incident had proven to be satisfactory—that people in the country who adopted an orphan usually did so with the idea of making a drudge of him.

This asylum could easily find a home in town or country for every boy in the institution, but experience teaches that in nine out of ten cases, the boy is far better off in the asylum, where he has good food and raiment, moral and intellectual instruction.

The orphan's lot at best is not a happy one, but, boy or girl, the orphan is best provided for in some good institution set apart for that noble work.

The Christian Advocate.

The Baltimore and Richmond Christian Advocate announces that the stock of Rev. Herbert M. Hope has been sold to Rev. James Cannon, of Blackstone, and J. Sidney Peters, of Hampton. By this purchase these gentlemen gain control of the paper and will assume management at once.

Mr. Hope will retire, but Rev. Dr. Laferly will remain as one of the editorial writers.

The Methodist Recorder, which has been published at Blackstone by Mr. Cannon, will be combined with the Advocate.

Mr. Hope is a trained newspaper man, and he did fine work for the Advocate. Mr. Cannon has also had valuable experience as editor, and he and Dr. Laferly and Mr. Peters will doubtless keep the Advocate up to its former standard of excellence.

Talking about the insane of the State of Virginia, there are quite a number of prisoners in the penitentiary here or at the State Farm who have been adjudged insane, but for whom room has not yet been found in the State hospitals. The time is not far off when Virginia will have to make special provision for these helpless creatures. They should be put where they can be treated by experts, but we cannot wonder that they are not wanted at any asylum or State "hospital," as now called.

Some temporary provision should be made for them as soon as possible, but ultimately the State will have to provide an asylum for the criminally insane—for those who develop insanity after conviction, and those whose mental condition makes them irresponsible for the crimes they have committed, and who ought not to be allowed to go at large to the danger of the general community.

A Chicago corner's jury has been summoned to find that an old colored woman in that city has died, not because she was poisoned, but because she thought she was poisoned! "A neighbor gave her a bottle containing a kind of brownish liquid. Evidently, says the police, the old woman jumped to the conclusion on feeling ill immediately after she had tasted of the contents of the bottle, that she had been poisoned and the fear of death killed her."

In a word, she imagined that she had been "conjured." The dread of the conjurer is deep-seated and strongly rooted in the negro breast. It is one of the things that the race brought with it from Africa, and which is but slowly disappearing before the march of education and civilization. Some curious phases of it are still to be seen in out of the way corners of the colored community.

Under the Cuban reciprocity act passed by Congress, this country is to admit the products of Cuba to our market at a reduction of twenty per cent. from the Dingley rates of duty, while some of the most important of our products, including a variety of manufactures, are to be admitted to Cuban ports at a reduction of twenty-five to forty per cent. from whatever rates it may impose upon commodities from other countries. The New York Journal of Commerce thinks this will doubtless be an advantage to Cuba, "for most of these articles it needs, and which it does not produce itself, or not in sufficient quantity to supply its wants, but it will naturally be a help to the island by giving it preference over that of other countries." The articles from Cuba chiefly affected will be sugar, tobacco and fruits.

The Legislature has adjourned to meet again on the 29th instant, but we doubt if the two houses will have a quorum then.

The life of the present Legislature expires on January 12th, when the first Legislature elected under the new Constitution will appear and proceed to business. Its session will be limited to sixty days, but with the concurrence of three-fifths of the members elected to such house, the session may be extended for a period not exceeding thirty days.

What is the world coming to? Where is the venerable citizen who can call to mind a time in the past when mill streams were running dry at or about Christmas time?

The New York Journal of Commerce is very active in urging Congress to pass the bill which has been before it for years to abolish pilotage charges upon coastwise sailing vessels. It is stated that "all the States north of the Cheve-

GOOD LUCK

MAKES BREAD THAT FATTENS

BAKING POWDER

peaks have done away with compulsory pilotage on coastwise vessels, but the Southern States still cling to the imposition."

Farmville, after a very hard struggle, has decided to dispense the fluid that cheers and inebriates, but it is not so arranged as to prevent a dry Christmas.

Among the other blessings of the season may be mentioned the adjournment of Congress for the time being, and also the Legislature.

Right jam up to Christmas day the good shopping weather holds its own. Was the like ever known before?

Just what Dowle will get in his stocking may have a good deal to do with the settlement of Zion City's troubles.

There seems to have been some canoodling and changing around in the church papers of late.

The alleged absence of law will not stop the marrying and giving in marriage in old Virginia.

The small boy who has failed to store away a sufficiency of barrels will feel exceedingly small to-night.

With no snow and no ice, except from the machine, Christmas is not what it used to be.

Mr. Roosevelt's stocking may have the nomination in it to-morrow, and then again it may not.

A Democratic stocking that catches a fat nomination is certainly worth hanging up.

O, ye small boy, just think of it: Only to-day, and to-morrow it will be here.

There will be Christmas sermons and possibly a few listeners.

There will be found a plenty of law if the fellow and the girl are both willing.

The Panama treaty also takes a brief holiday.

A Few Foreign Facts.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a correspondent's query as to whether he is in favor of dealing promptly and in a drastic manner with alien immigration, says that he has always been in favor of regulating immigration into England.

In the interest of making Australia "a white man's country" a government bounty is paid for sugar grown by white labor. Of the last year's sugar crop of Queensland, seven-eighths was produced by Kanaka black labor.

To-day American dried fruits, canned meats and vegetables, office furniture, typewriters, cash registers and many articles of ironware used in the conduct of business, etc., are well established and of constant demand in European markets.

To the numerous branches of the insurance business in Germany—as, for instance, life and fire insurance, insurance against burglars, against damage caused by hail and bursting of water pipes, etc.—the insurance of machinery has been added.

A German economist, Professor Jastrow, has written an essay in which he depreciates the existing feeling of fear and dependence on the American banking and industrial market by the investing, commercial and manufacturing circles of Germany, which, says the professor, gives Germany the appearance of being a dependency of the United States.

With a Comment or Two.

Prominent citizens and leading newspapers of other States are crying and scolding as if they had some personal interest in law enforcement in Missouri. Hands off, please—the outrage is all our own.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

You are welcome to it. We have troubles of our own, thank you.

Burton Smith, Esq., of Atlanta, a brother of Hon. Hoke Smith, who has just returned from a visit to the North, is quoted as saying that Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, will accept the Democratic nomination if it is offered to him.—Charlotte Observer.

Young Smith seems to have done considerable traveling to find what he might have guessed at home.

An article is going the rounds under the head of "Hill Men Are Not All Happy." Neither are we poor folks, but if we were rich we could afford not to be overly happy.—Wilmington Star.

There is philosophy, and a whole lot of it, for you.

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Hardwoods, Mahogany
White Pine, Yellow Pine,
Rough and Dressed,
California Redwood
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Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

In a kind of off-handed way the Charlottesville Progress ventures the following:

In selecting December 31st as the day for holding a local option election, the temperance people of Henrico evidently had in view the support of Remorse and Good Resolutions.

The Rockingham Register, from its home in the mountain fastnesses, sheds a brick at the good folks in the lowlands thus:

The supervisors of Norfolk county have taken steps to procure a backslider. They ought to put him to work first thing on the bacillus of rotten politics, which has been getting in its work for so long a period in that county.

The Lynchburg News figures out the defeat of the Panama treaty as follows:

A two-thirds vote will be required to ratify the treaty. So if all the Republicans vote for it, they will require a reinforcement of at least three Democrats to accomplish that purpose. The Democratic senators may take up the question in caucus and decide to act as a unit. In that event, the treaty will fail of ratification. The action of the caucus will be controlled by two-thirds of the Democratic senators; that is, if no senator sneaks out of the caucus. So, if it will be in the power of twenty-two Democratic senators to decide that the minority shall act as a unit and thereby defeat the treaty.

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot sums up the situation as to Norfolk thus:

Nature has, it is true, done more for this harbor than any other in the country, but that is no reason why the government should do nothing now that the shipping trade of the port has outgrown the facilities provided by nature.

The Salem Times-Register says:

The fact that thirteen of an unlucky number continues to be verified. On Monday thirteen little negroes, too small to be sent to jail, were whipped in the Manchester Police Court for various little offenses.

Orphan Asylum Management.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Your columns recently reported a new and wise departure in the management of orphan asylums, and the proposed departure, which is wiser still, the actual departure being the education of orphans in public schools, and the contemplated departure being the abolishing of uniforms. No two initial steps more beneficial to orphans could be taken, but, in order to perfect the system, the measure of uniforms, one more step must be taken out of this later.

It is not only unjust, but it is a serious injury to orphans to immerse them within four walls; to keep them segregated from their fellows without, and never, except on their daily or weekly marches, to let them see or know anything of the world in which they will soon have to make their way, with the inevitable result that they enter practical life wholly unacquainted with its ways, its motives and its temptations, and in great measure like sheepdoles asleep amongst wolves. This vile world, as the hymnologist sings, is not a friend to grace, nor to ignorance or helplessness either, and so it is, as at present graduates from asylums, are liable to be the easy prey of the designing or unscrupulous.

But in public schools orphans will learn much more than books. By contact with other children they will learn something. At least, of the world, they will learn how other children think, feel, act and speak, and they will experience, in some degree, the warmth of human sympathy, which, in great degree, is necessarily lacking in orphan asylums, regulated by strict discipline, which, experience teaches, is fatal to the heavenly sentiment. Orphans are now automata; public schools will teach them that they have minds, and, however imperfectly, how to use them.

Abolishing uniforms is even more important than sending to public schools. The uniform is an ever present reminder that the wearer is the child of misfortune or of misconduct, or of neglect, or possibly of dishonor; that it is alone in the world, with no father, no mother, no brother, no sister to respond to its cry, and that, however dire its distress it must depend upon hired help, rarely if ever sympathetic, for constant association with suffering or dependence begets callousness; that he is a dependent, a subject of charity, a waif, or possibly an outcast, and, though he may not probably a keen sense of the sad conditions under which they spend their young years, and of the inferior condition to which have made them orphans, yet, nevertheless, these untoward conditions cannot, even though unconsciously, lead to depression of mind, and, in some cases, to the destruction, their self respect, the root of all excellence, and without which one is a cipher or worse.

Instead, therefore, of being over reminded by their uniforms that they are charity orphans, and that, to their disadvantage, they are different from other children, every sign or badge of orphanhood should, if possible, be obliterated, and they should be dressed and act as if they were like other children, and thus be made to forget, partially at least, their sad lot. As at present cared for, orphans are an unpractical life with a robust, self-reliant and self-respecting morale, which alone can make the happy and useful citizen, or the mother of such citizens.


A serious objection to caring for orphans in asylums is its excessive expense. Thus, computing interest on plant, repairs, insurance, taxes, while thought not paid by the asylum, are paid by the public and are, therefore, properly chargeable as expenses, and not administrative charges, etc., etc. It will be found, we think, that the aggregate represents a sum greater than maintenance itself, so that, while under present methods only one hundred orphans, for example, can be maintained, under the method to be propounded quite twice that number could be maintained, and under conditions much more favorable for the development of a sound morale.

Cost of plant furnished is not less than \$10,000, and probably much more, but even at \$10,000 the interest thereon would be \$600.

Taxes, insurance, repairs, etc., 2 1-2 per cent, 22
Stairton, not less than 400
Servants not less than 400

And we have an expenditure (estimated), of \$1,650
before a cent is available for food, raiment, fuel, light and incident, or about \$5 a head for twenty-five orphans, the number on the basis of nineteen being of school age, estimated to be at the home. Estimating the cost of maintenance at the same sum, which would be about 18 cents each only per day, we estimate a sum of \$300 per year for each orphan, while under the plan to be proposed it is believed that the total cost need not be much, if any, above that of the few, or those who are not growing where one grows before, is said to be a benefactor, and if that be so, what more humane and more systematic method for the care of orphans than this? It is for only one orphan where two should be cared for?

By the way, we take great pride in our orphan asylums, and regard them as proof, both of our high Christian character and our high Christian civilization; yet, looking at properly they are rather proof of the barbarism that still lurks beneath the thin veneer of civilization covering us. We have orphans and there are many of them, because we are good, but simply because government is not founded upon equity, and consequently, a few, or those who are not growing where one grows before, is said to be a benefactor, and if that be so, what more humane and more systematic method for the care of orphans than this? It is for only one orphan where two should be cared for?



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Buyers of Jewelry, Watches, Diamonds and Sterling Silverware are requested to stop a moment and ponder over the following pertinent facts. Every reputable firm, however prosperous, has certain limitations which it imposes upon itself. I do not carry all kinds of Gold Jewelry, but the specific lines I do carry appeal to people of good taste and refinement. I do not sell goods at all prices—my goods are never cheap, but the prices are moderate and our customers appreciate these limitations. They mean merit. Hence, it is to the advantage of those in search of everything high-toned, artistic and in the Jewelry line, to see

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The Reliable Jeweler,
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be no orphan asylums, because no need for them, did we live under the reign of equity, that happy time mentioned in holy writ when the lion and the lamb would lie down together and a little child would lead them. Orphan asylums are, therefore, no cause for pride, but rather of humiliation, except in reality, they are mournful monuments of man's inhumanity to man.

All eleemosynary, all penal institutions, indeed law itself, essential as they are to the welfare of the community, are only evidences of humanity's inherent barbarism, and we have no more cause for pride in our jails and penitentiaries, for they all spring from the same bitter root—justice or barbarism.

We will now propose the plan whereby two orphans may be cared for, whereas now only one is cared for. The plan is radical and is no less than abolishing orphan asylums, and substituting for them a different manner. The two principal objections to orphan asylums are their relative expense, and the inadequate training for the realities of life. In other words, by caring for only one where two should be cared for, they practically destroy half the means of charity applicable to orphans, and they graduate shorn lambs, to whom heaven does not temper the winds.

It is not proposed, of course, to abolish orphan asylums instantly and outright, but it is proposed to take steps looking to their final abolishment, except that there be maintained here and here local asylums, where orphans may be received and temporarily cared for before permanent assignment to private families in the country.

While this plan would not entirely cure the suffering of orphans, it would make orphans as happy as children having tender parents, and while it may be open to criticism, just as everything human is, yet it offers so many advantages over present methods that it demands the serious consideration of those having the welfare of orphans at heart. Being able to care for more orphans would not be the chief advantage, great as this is, of the plan; the chief advantage would be that the orphans would be removed from the necessarily morbid and depressing atmosphere of an orphan asylum, and that they would be able to learn to think and act for themselves; attachments would spring up between orphan and family and neighbors, the healthy glow of natural, not artificial, sympathy would soften and ameliorate his nature, and by and by he would measurably forget that heaven had discriminated against him, and he would almost feel as if he were like other children, nor would he engage in the struggle for existence, hard enough at best, handicapped with the stigma of having been a charity orphan. It is the observation of some, at least, that those graduated from orphan asylums are regarded as inferiors.

There is no reasonable doubt that suitable families in abundance could be

QUAKER GELATINE
Xmas Contest Closed

Names of winners published next Sunday. Continue to save

COUPONS

for next contest. See next Sunday's paper.

KELLEY & DUDLEY,

Sole Agents,
Richmond, - Virginia.

Nut Fruit Cake.
One cupful of butter is creamed with two of sugar, and four eggs, added, yolk and whites beaten separately. One grated nutmeg and one pound of flour stirred in gradually, keeping out about 2 ounces of flour to dredge the nuts and raisins. A large coffee-cupful of raisins, stoned and split, and the same amount of hickory nuts, chopped as fine as possible, are stirred in last. A cool bread-oven, the best for this cake, and when finished add a thick pink icing flavored with rose-water, and decorated with an edging of home-made burnt almonds.